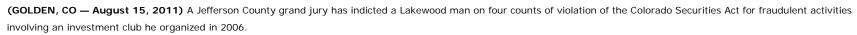
## Scott W. Storey District Attorney

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Pam Russell

Public Information 303-271-6905

RE: Lakewood Man indicted on Securities Fraud



Arthur Joseph Dertina, DOB: 3-19-39, organized an investment club called the Denver Stock Market Investors Club (DSMIC). It was a general partnership with its main office located in Lakewood. The fraudulent activity is alleged to have occurred between October 2006 and June 2008.

The club was designed for investors to meet monthly to learn about investment strategy and to make regular investments. Members were required to sign a one-page agreement and to invest with the club. The one-page agreement set out the rules and by-laws of the club which required that members vote on the purchase of new stocks or any changes to their existing portfolio.

According to the indictment, Dertina changed the bylaws and rules without consulting the members. Over time members began to have less input as Dertina began to make all investment decisions without the members' consent.

Dertina is alleged to have illegally used some of the investment club's money for his personal expenses. He also is accused of having used the investment club's money to start several new businesses which were primarily "shell" companies to siphon money from the club.

Investors were not told that the money they invested in the club and/or profits from the investment club would be used to pay Dertina's personal expenses or to pay for/into other companies started by Dertina.

Count four of the indictment alleges that Dertina misrepresented to club members, and potential club members, the relationship between the club and a well-known investment strategist and author of several successful books on investments. Some investors may have joined the club based on the misleading information regarding this relationship provided by Dertina.

During the two years the club was in operation, 22 people are alleged to have been defrauded \$196,000.

"Potential investors must be diligent in protecting their assets," says District Attorney Scott Storey. "Investment or stock clubs can be valuable in educating investors regarding the stock market and investment strategies. However, in today's challenging investment environment investors must take an active role by researching opportunities before they invest and hold accountable anyone who has access to their money."

The investigation was a joint operation between the Lakewood Police Department, the Colorado Division of Securities and the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office.

The grand jury returned their indictment on August 8. Dertina was arrested on August 9 and posted \$50,000 bond on August 10. His first court appearance is August 22 at 8:30.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual has committed a crime(s). A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6

